

DRAFT – INTERNAL TALKING POINTS FOR BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

Issue:

The Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) site is an NPL site in Upton, New York with ongoing cleanup activities under Superfund. BNL is currently performing PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) investigations at several areas throughout the site, and Suffolk County and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation have requested off-base private well sampling.

Background:

- The Brookhaven National Laboratory site is a research and development facility owned by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) which was added to the NPL (National Priorities List) in 1989.
- Historical foam testing areas, petroleum facilities and fire departments at BNL may be potential sources of PFAS from aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).
- In March 2017, BNL potable supply wells were sampled for PFAS compounds for the first time; detections were noted in the first sampling and confirmed in 2017 and 2018. To date, the maximum combined concentration of PFOS and PFOA detected in the supply wells was 70.4 ng/L.
- BNL initiated a Preliminary Assessment process in 2018, starting with an initial phase to characterize PFAS contamination in the source water contribution area of the supply wells.
- Phase 2 of the investigation focused on PFAS contamination in eight locations where firefighting foam was released. PFAS have been detected at levels greater than EPA's health advisory levels (HALs) at or downgradient of BNL's fire station, with the highest exceedance being 12,144 ng/L total PFOS and PFOA.
- BNL is currently in Phase 3 of the investigation, which will investigate onsite groundwater treatment systems, groundwater downgradient of two closed landfills, and in select monitoring wells. EPA has encouraged sampling at the base boundary, and BNL is preparing an addendum to the Phase 3 work plan to further address the boundary.
- Suffolk County and New York State DEC have requested off-base sampling of approximately 97 private drinking wells, while BNL is continuing to proceed in a stepwise fashion to investigate on-base sources.

Key Points:

- PFOS and PFOA have been detected on base at or downgradient of AFFF release areas.
- Suffolk County Department of Health Services has requested off-base sampling of approximately 97 private drinking water wells. Five private wells have been tested so far, and PFOS/PFOA were detected but at levels below the HAL.
- BNL has agreed to a stepwise investigation, starting with on-base areas and moving off-base. They are currently conducting sampling in the third phase of the on-base investigation
- EPA is working with BNL to develop a plan for addressing contamination at the boundary

Talking Points:

- BNL is proceeding in a stepwise fashion to determine if on-base PFAS sources are potentially impacting off-base drinking water, while Suffolk County and NYSDEC, have requested off-base drinking water of approximately 97 wells.
- EPA is in regular contact with BNL, DOE, NYSDEC, and Suffolk County to address emerging issues on the site.

